



Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

Nominations are open now through December 15 at midnight for the Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2024!

To nominate a friend or colleague, [click here](#).

Attention: Family and Friends of Current High School Freshmen



Youth Leadership Jacksonville applications for the 2023-2024 school year have been sent to participating high schools in Baker, Clay, Duval and St. Johns counties.

Help us spread the word!
Current freshmen should apply now to their school liaison to participate during their sophomore year. Contact **Meg Folds**, Programs Director, for questions about Youth Leadership Jacksonville and for the name of a school's point of contact.

RECONNECT 2022



**A Gathering of NextGen and
Youth Leadership Jacksonville Alumni**

**Wednesday, January 4, 2023
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

**112 West Adams Street, 4th Floor
OneJax Institute office**

**Featuring the comedy and wisdom of
Michael Freed
Attorney, Marathon Runner, Philanthropist
and Comedian**



RSVP to Meg Folds: 904-955-3665 or meg@leadershipjax.org

2022 ALUMNI LUNCHEON

The Leadership Jacksonville 2022 Alumni Luncheon took place at the DoubleTree Hotel on November 9. The program included a presentation of the 2022 Tillie K. Fowler Distinguished Leadership Award to Mike Freed (LJ 2008) and a discussion with new Honorary members W.C. Gentry, Dawn Lockhart and Dr. Charles B. McIntosh. Laughter and cheers were had by all. Congratulations also to this year's "Best Class", LJ 2021! View the LJ 2022 Alumni Luncheon photos on our [Facebook page](#).

Thanks to luncheon attendees who completed the post-event survey. We heard from you that you enjoyed reconnecting with one another, the panel discussion with honorary members, and taking class photos in front of the photo backdrop. We also learned that there were some audio hiccups, an interest in having more room to mingle, and that you'd like more time to hear from the panelists. We appreciate your feedback and will take these into consideration for future alumni events.





LEADERSHIP
JACKSONVILLE

Leadership Jacksonville 2023 Education Day

LJ 2023 participated in Education Day on November 17 at the Florida State College at Jacksonville Downtown Campus. The class learned about the impact of poverty and equity on education and discussed current issues and opportunities. We would like to thank our Program Day sponsor [The Bolles School](#), Lunch/Break sponsor [Coker Law](#), and all speakers, facilitators, and program day committee members.



Youth Leadership Jacksonville 2023 "Leading for A Lifetime" Day



LEADERSHIP
JACKSONVILLE

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

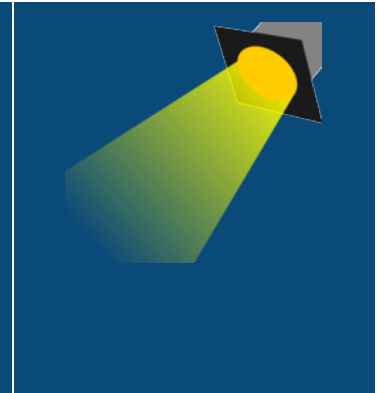
YLJ 2023 "Leading for A Lifetime" Day focused on several aspects of the legislative and election processes including ethics, integrity and public service. The students learned how to be effective public speakers and participated in a mock City Council meeting and mock campaign. Thank you to our Program Day sponsor [Fidelity Investments](#), and to the Duval County School Board members, Beaches mayors and City Council members for discussing life as public servants and inspiring the future leaders of our city.



Alumni Spotlight

Derrick Mitchell

LJ 2019



Derrick Mitchell (LJ 2019) was introduced to Leadership Jacksonville by Deloris O'Neal (LJ 2018) after her participation in the program. "I absolutely love LJ and its mission in our community. LJ gave me the opportunity to interact and network with a diverse group of leaders from other professions and is one of the best benefits." Derrick shared how working in law enforcement, he came into contact with individuals who have various needs and through LJ, he was able to find additional resources. "I learned that school busing started in Jacksonville in the early 70's, not long before I started elementary school. I remember vividly being bused from my all black community on the Northside to an elementary school in a predominately white community. That was a powerful moment for me."

As a former law enforcement officer, Justice Day was his favorite day as it was refreshing to see his class members get a better understanding of the many challenges of the criminal justice system. "Leadership Jacksonville is one of the best leadership programs in the country. Your eyes are not only open to the many great things that we have going on in our community but also to the areas where we have challenges. I became a better leader because of LJ. It reaffirmed to me that we have to keep working, keep trying, keep pressing forward to have the type of community we want to have."

2022 UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAM DAYS

YLJ 2023 "Everyday Creativity" Day
Thursday, December 1

LJ 2023 Health Day

Thursday, December 8

LJ Nominations open now through Thursday, December 15

RECONNECT 2023
for YLJ and NextGen
Wednesday, January 4, 2023



ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Submit your news to
manisha@leadershipjax.org

1999

Meg Folds (LJ 1999) received the Paul Harris Fellowship award from Rotary District Governor Jeff Michelman (LJ 1996) at the Rotary Club of San Marco meeting in October.



2002

LJ 2002 celebrated their 20th reunion at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens on November 2, 2022.

Pictured:

Gracie Simendinger (LJ CEO) and LJ 2002 Alumni: **Sam Hall, Maria Hane, Bruce Musser, Wanda Willis, Mac Holley, Lisa Balter, Selinda Keyes, Barbara Goodman** and **David Clark**.

2008

Mike Freed's (LJ 2008) 6th annual Freed to Run closing ceremony was celebrated on November 19. He and the Freed to Run fundraiser reached the goal of raising \$2.25 million for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid's (JALA) Northeast Florida Medical Legal Partnership.



2009

Congratulations to **Wyman Duggan** (LJ 2009) on receiving the Legislative Leadership Award of the Trial Lawyers Section of the Florida Bar in recognition of his commitment to its core principles. The Trial Lawyers Section of The Florida Bar provides a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas leading to the improvement of individual trial ability.

2012

Congratulations to **Michael A. Mayo** (NLS 2012) on being named to the Florida Hospital Association (FHA) 2022-23 Board of Trustees, representing Region 2 in a two-year term. Michael was also named one of Florida's most influential business leaders across major industries by Florida Trend's fifth annual Florida 500.

2014

Alex Sifakis (LJ 2014) and his wife Brittany welcomed baby boy, Sterling Ford on October 7, 2022. Alex was also recently awarded the CREW Jacksonville Individual IMPACT Award.



2016

Christine Hoffman (LJ 2016) has joined the Eric Freidheim Tourism Institute Advisory Board, University of Florida.

2020

Kimano Edwards (LJ 2020) has accepted an invitation for membership in The National Black Lawyers Top 40 Under 40. He was also appointed to the Jacksonville Small and Emerging Business (JSEB) Monitoring Committee by City Council President Terrance Freeman and will serve the term until 2026. For the second year in a row, Kimano was selected by his peers for the "Ones to Watch" recognition in the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America.

2021

Basma Alawee (LJ 2021) **was selected to join** the US delegation at the UNHCR's 2022 Executive Committee meeting in Geneva, Switzerland in October. Basma is one of eight advisors serving the US Refugee Advisory Board.

Nemiah Rutledge (LJ 2021) **was featured on WJXT** on how to stay active and healthy this holiday season.

Congratulations to **Elisha Gonzalez-Cloud** (YLJ 2021) on her participation in the 40th Annual Miss Senior High Pageant. She was also recently crowned Miss Englewood High School, 2022-2023.

COMBINED CLASSES & HONORARY



Alumni from LJ 2022 attended the Association of Fundraising Professionals' National Philanthropy Day Luncheon on November 14.

Pictured: **Gracie Simendinger** (LJ CEO) and LJ 2022 members, **Ashley Szczukowski**, **Rachael Tutwiler-Fortune**, **Megan Denk**, **Kimberly Jones**, **Heather Schatz** and **Maria McNair**.

Congratulations to the winners of the annual Environmental Achievement Awards from Keep Jacksonville Beautiful and the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board which highlights the achievements of people and organizations going above and beyond to keep the city beautiful.

LJ Alumni award winners include: the Charles E. Bennett Champion of the Environment Award: **Lisa Rinaman** (LJ 2017) and the Christi P. Veleta Environmental Award: **Melissa Ross** (LJ 2013). The Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board includes LJ Alumni, **Guillermo Simón** (LJ 2023), **Adam Hoyles** (LJ 2014) and **Charles Garrison** (LJ 2022).

Aundra Wallace (NLS 2014) and **Nina Waters** (LJ 1991) were recognized among the most influential business leaders list across major industries by Florida Trend's 5th Annual Florida 500.

Blue Zones Project Jacksonville welcomed **Marlo Zarka** (LJ 2020) as Public Policy Lead and **Nicole Hamm** (LJ 2022) as Executive Director to their team.

After a swearing-in ceremony, the Duval County School Board took its annual vote to elect new officers. Congratulations to **Kelly Coker** (LJ 2016) who was sworn in as the new School Board Chair (District 1) and to new School Board Vice Chair (District 3), **Cindy Pearson** (LJ 2023).

Several alumni attended the Meninak Club of Jacksonville's luncheon meeting on October 24 to learn about the impressive work of LJ Alumnus and architect **Ted Pappas** (LJ 1979). Ted has repurposed or rehabilitated historic structures in Jacksonville's urban core including the oldest historically black college in Florida, the state's oldest musical organization, the city's oldest library, oldest private club building, oldest school building, and oldest church structure.



Pictured:

Mary Bland Love (LJ 1989), **Karen Brune Mathis** (LJ 1998), **Jill Dame** (LJ 1987), **Mark Pappas** (LJ 2003), **Ted Pappas** (LJ 1979), **J.F. Bryan** (Honorary), **Darren Dailey** (LJ 2011), **Gracie Simendinger** (LJ CEO)

The Jacksonville Women's Network welcomed 53 new members on November 7. Included were more than a dozen Leadership Jacksonville Alumni: **Ywana Allen** (LJ 2020), **Terrie Andrews** (LJ 2023), **Kathy Barbour** (LJ 2018), **Vicki Basra** (LJ 2017), **Sarah Bermudez** (LJ 2016), **Mickee Brown** (LJ 2009), **Terri Davlantes** (LJ 2012), **Greer Johnson Gillis** (LJ 2022), **Ann Holt** (2013), **Johnnetta Moore** (2012), **Wendy Norfleet** (LJ 2020), **Pat Gillum Sams** (2021) and **Heather Schatz** (LJ 2022). Leading the organization are President **Meg Folds** (LJ 1999), Vice President **Barbara Darby** (LJ 1993), Treasurer **Meg Rose** (LJ 2017), Secretary **Kendra McCrary** (2004), Immediate Past President **Helen Jackson** (LJ 1995), and board members, **Connie Hodges** (LJ 1988) and **Penny Zuber** (LJ 2012).



Sabeen Perwaiz (LJ 2016), **Rachael Tutwiler Fortune** (LJ 2022), and **Rick Mullaney** (LJ 1988) were panel speakers at the Women's Giving Alliance educational event, Breaking Down Barriers to Advocacy on November 2 at the River Club.

HONORARY

Congratulations to **Diana Greene** (Honorary) on her selection as a Green-Garner Superintendent of the Year finalist. Diana was also recognized as the Star Superintendent at the Florida School Board Annual Meeting.

Charles B. McIntosh (Honorary) enjoyed the unveiling of the Charles B. McIntosh Community Achievement Center

rendering which is slated to open in July 2024. Will Williams, Operations Director for the City of Jacksonville's Public Works Department, presented Charles with a proclamation from Mayor Lenny Curry declaring November 3, Charles McIntosh Day.



NOTES OF SYMPATHY



Our thoughts are with **Andrea Myers** (LJ 2023) on the passing of her mother on October 30, 2022.

Our condolences to **Brian Coughlin** (LJ 2016) and **Keli Coughlin Joyce** (LJ 2009) on the loss of their mother Judy Coughlin. Judy passed away on November 2, 2022.

STAY IN TOUCH!

Click the links to follow Leadership Jacksonville:

[LinkedIn](#)

[Facebook](#)

[LJ Alumni Facebook Group](#)

[NextGen Facebook Group](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)



All LJ Alumni are required to reset their membership password on our NEW website. Need help? Email: manisha@leadershipjax.org

MAKE A LJ DONATION

[**DONATE NOW**](#)

Many companies sponsor matching gift programs that match the charitable contributions made by their employees. Check with your employer for details.

[This is a great way to enhance the impact of your giving.](#)

Leadership Jacksonville, Inc. is designated a 501(c) (3) by the Internal Revenue Service: as such, all donations are considered tax deductible.
State of Florida Registration #: CH6020. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE
DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE.
REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION OF THE STATE.